

ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:00 PM.

Members Present

Mr. George Zawislak, Chairman
Mr. Fred Lierman
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Officer William Jacobson, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Mark Marinaro, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Mr. Thomas Okite, Vice Chairman
Alderman Franklin Beach, 10th Ward
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

Also Present

Mr. Jef Heckinger, P.O. Box 1492
Mr. Nick Bower, 3303 Liberty Drive, 61101
Mr. Matthew F. Spinello, 2207 Glenwood Avenue, 61103

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on January 11, 2012, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in the 1st Ward from J.F. Heckinger, 401 W. State Street, 61105, 3rd Ward to repeal the existing "No Parking from 7a.m. to 6p.m." restriction on both sides of Ware Avenue from Argus Drive to Colosseum Drive, thus restoring unrestricted on-street parking. (Mr. Heckinger discussed that he had a potential tenant that wanted on-street parking. Mr. Heckinger discussed that the former car dealership on the west side of the road had left and a new car dealer ship did not have as many cars to unload. Mr. Heckinger discussed that he had requested this two years ago and it had been denied based on concerns about fire trucks being able to get down the road with parking on both sides. Commission recommended approval of restoring on street parking on the east side

- of Ware Avenue from Argus Drive to Colosseum Drive. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by L. Carlson. Voted 9-0)
2. Request from Matthew Spinello, owner, M. Spinello & Son Locksmiths, 522 Chestnut Street, 61102, 13th Ward to repeal the existing “2 hour” parking on the south side of Chestnut Street from South Winnebago Street to South Court Street, and replace with “thirty minute” parking restriction. (J. Carter explained that Mr. Spinello had made the request because his current customer parking would be lost due to the municipal parking lot across Chestnut Street being transferred to Winnebago County. J. Carter discussed that 30 minute parking would help promote turn over and help ensure parking was available for customers. Commission recommends approval of the request. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)
 3. Request in the 3rd Ward from Alderman Karen Elyea, 11th Ward, to establish a Handicapped Parking stall on the north side of Jefferson Street from North Church Street to 172 feet east of North Church Street, near the Adriatic Café. (J. Carter discussed that the Adriatic wished to establish one handicapped space in front of their restaurant. Commission recommends approval of the request. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by F. Lierman. Voted 9-0)

The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the following items:

1. Request from Nick Bowers, 3303 Liberty Drive, 61101, 7th ward to establish stop or yield control at the intersection of Liberty Drive and Vermont Street. (J. Carter stated that this intersection already had stop control with Vermont Street stopping for Liberty Drive, therefore the request was actually for all way stop at the intersection of Liberty Drive and Vermont Street. G. McIntyre motioned to amend the request to all way stop at the intersection of Liberty Drive and Vermont Street. F. Lierman seconded and voted was 9-0. Mr. Bowers discussed that speeds seem excessive, that it is one of two thru streets, and he is concerned for children in the area. Mr. Bowers stated that he did not want to see a fatal accident and that the neighborhood is concerned. J. Carter stated that City Staff had noticed a large amount of people dropping off children for bus stops. G. Wilson stated that since it was a thru street it was a bus stop for all grade levels. F. Lierman discussed that traffic volume splits do not favor four way stop because they are roughly 4 to 1. Commission discussed placing 30 mph signage, run a speed study and having enforcement take a look at the intersection. Commission recommended No Action. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by G. McIntyre. Voted 9-0).

The Traffic Commission laid over the following items:

1. Request from Alderman Venita Hervey, 5th Ward, to establish a Stop or Yield control at the following intersections:
 - A. Loomis Street and Court Street.
 - B. Loomis Street and Church Street.

(J. Carter asked that item be laid over in order to gather additional information.
Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 9-0)

Other items:

1. G. Zawislak stated that T. Okite had resigned his commission and the Traffic Commission needed a vice-chairman. Fred Lierman was nominated. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by G. Wilson. Voted 9-0.
2. F. Lierman discussed the possible establishment permits for businesses to allow for longer than posted parking. J. Carter discussed that this request had been made in the past and was usually from a beauty shop. He discussed concerns that these permits could be forged and could cause a strain of parking control officers who would need to verify authenticity. J. Carter said he would look into the issue and possibly the establishment of boundaries, where this could be used.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM. Motion by F. Lierman, seconded by D. Ward.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:
March 14, 2012 6:00 PM.

Rockford City Hall
425 East State Street
2nd floor, Conference Room A

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary